

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/996,318	KONDO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Anthony Ojini	3723	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 03/22/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-17, 19-28.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 23 November 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date 3/22/04.

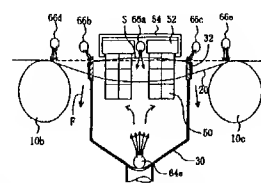
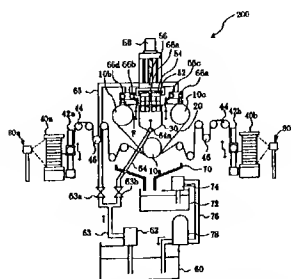
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>5</u> 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |
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REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: **the specific limitations of** "cutting a rare earth alloy (50) with a wire (20) traveling in a state that a portion of the workpiece to be cut with the wire is immersed in a fluid coolant containing water as the main component, the coolant having a surface tension at 25⁰C in a range of 25 mN/m to 60 mN/m." in the combination as claimed in **claim 1**, and "cutting a rare earth alloy (50) with a traveling wire (20) while a second coolant containing water as the main component is supplied to a portion of the rare earth alloy to be cut with the wire; wherein the first coolant has a coefficient of dynamic friction against the rare earth alloy at 25⁰C of 0.3 or less." in the combination as claimed in **claim 17**, are not anticipated or made obvious by the prior art in the examiner's opinion. **For example**, Okuno et al. (5,827,113) disclose a method for cutting a work piece (50) using a wire (6), comprising the step of: cutting the work piece with the wire traveling in a state that a portion of the workpiece to be cut with the wire is immersed in a fluid coolant (60) as the main component. **However**, the art of record considered as a whole, alone or in combination fails to provide or suggest "cutting a rare earth alloy (50) with a wire (20) traveling in a state that a portion of the workpiece to be cut with the wire is immersed in a fluid coolant containing water as the main component, the coolant having a surface tension at 25⁰C in a range of 25 mN/m to 60 mN/m ; and cutting a rare earth alloy (50) with a traveling wire (20) while a second coolant containing water as the main component is supplied to a portion of the rare earth alloy to be cut with the wire; wherein the first coolant has a coefficient of dynamic friction against the rare earth alloy at 25⁰C of 0.3 or less".



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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anthony Ojini whose telephone number is 703 305 3768. The examiner can normally be reached on 7 to 4 Tuesday-Friday with every other Monday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Hail can be reached on 703 308 2687. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Joseph J. Hail, III
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 3700

AO
April 7, 2004